DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

VOL. I NO. 14 JULY 18th 1952 Price: 15 Pf., 5 c., 3 d

E. GERMANY BUILDING SOCIALISM

No Confiscation of Small Businesses

The time is now ripe for building Socialism in the German Democratic Republic, Walter Ulbricht, Deputy Prime Minister and General Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, annouced.

"The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party has decided, in accordance with proposals from the working class, from the peasants and from other sections of the population, that the planned construction of Socialism should begin in the German Democratic Republic," he stated, addressing the 2nd Party Conference of the Socialist Unity Party in Berlin on July 9th.

"The creation of the foundations for Socialism is in accordance with the economic development and the interests of all working people. The German people, who produced Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, the founders of scientific Socialism, will go forward to convert into reality the great idea of Socialism in the German Democratic Republic, led by the working class."

Walter Ulbricht stressed that the construction of Socialism would not entail the confiscation of small businesses.

"The creation of the economic basis of Socialism demands in the first place the increase of Socialist property through the further development of the nationally owned sector of the economy, which has assumed a Socialist character. Contrary to the claims of our opponents we have no intention of confiscating small businesses, since we do not wish to impose upon the state the unnecessary burden of carrying out the functions which they at present carry out in the production."

(Main points from Walter Ulbricht's spreech on p. 4 & 5)

MURDER PLOT FRUSTRATED

Security Service Arrests Gangsters

The East German State Security service has arrested the members of a gang of assasins who had plotted to kill a prominent statesman from the People's Democracies when he recently visited Germany, Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht disclosed.

21 members of the gang, which had its headquarters in the East German town of Cottbus, had been arrested. They were found to possess a radio transmitter, explosives, and arms.

The gang was directed from the West Berlin office of the "Ostbuero," the espionage service maintained by the leadership of the West German Social Democratic Party. The West Berlin office of the organisation, situated at 14 Langobarden Allee, is headed by a full time Social Democratic official named Stahl.

Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht also disclosed that the arrest of others agents had shown quite clearly that the so-called "Fighting Group Against Inhumanity" in West Berlin was financed and run exclusively by the American secret service. This group, led by a certain Ernst Tillich, had organised the smuggling of large quantities of explosives, poisons, acids and firebombs into the German Democratic Republic. Paid agents of the group had organised attacks upon rail and road bridges, canals and docks.

Artists "Adopt" Factory

Famed dramatist Bertolt Brecht and noted composer Hanns Eisler have publicly pledged themselves to take over the cultural patronage of an important Berlin factory.

They took the pledge in an appeal addressed to other artists which stated:

"The sharpening danger of imperialist war makes it necessary for artists and writers to do something extra for peace.

"We propose that cultural centres should be formed in a number of large factories. The job of these cultural centres will be:

1. To arrange special theatre and opera performances, both in theatres and in the factory cultural clubs. These shows should include both plays of political character and also light entertainment.

2. To arrange special programmes, composed of songs, choirs, one act plays, cabaret numbers etc.

3. To help the shows put on by the factory itself.

All the entertainment provided by these cultural centres must be of particularly high quality, and must be designed to meet the specific needs of the factory workers."

Bertolt Brecht, author of the Hollywood film "Hangmen also Die", and Hanns Eisler, composer of the music of many American films, took the pledge on the occasion of the 2nd Party Congress of the Socialist Unity Party.

Big Radio Transmitter Opened

Berlin Radio's new transmitting station, one of the most powerful in Europe, was opened on July 6th by President Wilhelm Pieck. The transmitting tower, over 750 feet high, and the entire technical equipment, was completed in eighteen months instead of the three years which specialists had estimated.

The previous main transmission towers of Berlin Radio, situated at Tegel in the Franch Sector of Berlin, were demolished without warning in 1948 by the French military authorities.

Split Germany is Greatest Danger to Peace

By Gordon Schaffer, Chairman of the British Peace Comitee

Ever since the World Peace Movement was formed, we have known that the gravest danger to peace lay in the failure of the great powers to reach agreement on Germany.

We have known that the continued division of Germany, the artificial slashing of an arbitrary frontier across the territory of a great nation was an affront to the German people and a perpetual danger to world peace.

Artificial Division

We have seen how this artificial division has been fostered by those who have been seeking ever since 1945 to revive the West German military machine. The American government and their unwilling allies are feverishly pushing forward with their plans to recreate the nazi army and Luftwaffe in West Germany.

The former Hitler generals and their allies in America make no secret of their desire to recreate West German armies in order to try once again to fight the war which Hitler lost. They declare openly that their conception of the "defence of the west" is to wage war against the German Democratic Republic and the western territories of Poland. Walter Lippmann, the American commentator, has warned that these generals seek to drag America and her allies into war against Poland's capital Warsaw and against the city of Kaliningrad in the Soviet Union.

Labour Horror

Hugh Dalton, the British Labour Party leader, has told of his horror when he found that certain leaders of the German Social Democratic Party were demanding not only Poland's western territories, but Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia as well.

I am glad that we can record that these leaders do not represent the majority of the membership of the German Social Democratic Party, who are taking a great part in the struggle in West Germany against the contract signed in Bonn.

Those who are building up this war base in West Germany make no effort to conceal that the forces which created Hitler Germany are back in power in the Federal Republic. The industrialists who first financed Hitler, who brought his gangsters to power, who backed him to the end and drew profits from the slave labour of all Europe and who made the apparatus for the gas-chambers, rule again in the Ruhr.

We must make no mistake. The rebuilding of a new nazi reich would be directed once again against the freedom of all the peoples of Europe, West and East alike.

On this question of rebuilding a nazi-dominated West Germany, there can surely be no division of opinion. If the leaders of the western powers want the friendship of Hitler's generals, they cannot expect the support of their peoples.

In West Germany too the campaign of protest grows. The German people know war at first hand. They refuse to be driven to the shambles for the third time in a generation. It becomes clear that if ratification of the Bonn Treaty is forced through the West German parliament it will be in violation of the wishes of the German people.

In Britain, where the damage of the nazi bombers is still unrepaired, even in the shadow of St. Paul's Cathedral, no one can dispute that the majority of the population opposes the contract signed at Bonn by their Foreign Secretary. The engineers, the railwaymen, the distributive workers and the cooperative movement have all declared their opposition. The Labour Party Executive, which so long backed the American alliance, has refused to accept the Bonn proposals and has demanded that the people of West Germany be consulted.

The ex-service men and women have built their own movement of protest. They have come to demonstrations wearing their medals won in the war against fascism to tell the government and the generals and the admirals that they will not dishonour their dead comrades by marching with the nazis. Mr. Churchill may be able to secure ratification of the Bonn Treaty in the House of Commons, but never from the British people.

(From a speech to the World Peace Council in Berlin.)

WORLD PEACE COUNCIL APPEAL ON GERMANY

Seven years after the crushing of the Hitlerite regime the Peace Treaty with Germany has still not been concluded.

The World Council of Peace, interpreting the aspirations of millions of men and women throughout the world, addresses itself to the Governments of the Four Great Powers, the U.S.A., France, Great Britain, the U.S.S.R., which, by the Potsdam agreements, assumed a special responsibility for the peaceful solution of the German problem...

The World Council considers the best solution to be the immediate convening of a Four-Power conference, the object of which will be to take all decisions with a view to the peaceful solution of the German problem.

It considers, as the best solution, that the German people themselves, through free elections, achieve their unity and give themselves the Government which will conclude a Peace Treaty with all the states against which Hitlerite Germany made war.

This Treaty will have to recognise the right to sovereignty of a unified, democratic, independent and peaceful Germany.

This Treaty, in which Germany will agree not to enter into any military coalition, will fix the methods and times of evacuation of the foreign armies of occupation. It will thus help restore to the Nations of Europe the choice of their destiny in security, co-operation and respect for their independence...

The World Council of Peace solemnly declares that the co-operation of all men of good will is indispensable to the development of effective action without delay.

It calls upon the trade unions, political parties, organisations, and churches, particularly upon those of Germany, Great Britain, France, Italy, the Scandinavian countries and all the nations neighbouring on Germany.

With all their assembled strength the peoples can, in the months facing us, prevent the ratification of the separate agreements, force the holding of a meeting of the Four Powers and make it reach a peaceful solution that corresponds to their own security as well as to the national interests of the German people.

Unanimously adopted at the Special Session of the World Council of Peace — BERLIN, July 6th, 1952.

WEST BERLIN BLOCKADES ITSELF

The West Berlin Administration took steps to blockade itself on July 10th by erecting road blocks on all roads leading into the surrounding German Democratic Republic. A total of 119 roads were blocked off with the aid of trenches and concrete blocks.

Reason given for this measure was the alleged "kidnapping" of Walter Linse, leading official of a western espionage organisation called "Investigating Committee of Free Jurists."

The work done by this "Investigating Committee" was described by the "New Yorker" magazine on September 8th 1951 as follows:

"The committee has ... in the Soviet Zone, more than three thousand field-workers who carry messages ... and perform all the tough dirty anonymous chores that daily resistance against a powerful enemy requires. Each man has a cover name. Messages and reports are sent by hand in code to the Berlin headquarters.

"The staff members are paid from funds the Committee gets from the government of West Berlin and from the Ministry of All-German Affairs in Bonn."

The disappearance of this spy was the signal for an unprecedentedly violent attack on the German Democratic Republic in the West Berlin press.

East German spokesmen stated that the "Linse Case" was obviously being played up to divert West Germans and West Berliners from the results of the Bonn War Treaty and the precarious economic position of West Berlin.

The independent East Berlin newspaper "Berliner Zeitung" commented:

"The American sabotage and espionage service in West Berlin appears to have lost one of its bandits, according to the scream which has been set up by the western press. The loudness of the scream testifies that the Dr. Linse, whom they have mislaid, must have been a very valuable member of the organisation.

"There is really no cause for so much excitement. When Hitler tried to march to the Urals he lost whole armies. Now the Americans, and Adenauer, who want to 'integrate' Europe up to the Urals, have lost one spy. They will have to get used to the fact that all the tools they use to hinder our peaceful construction, whether by hot or by cold war, will come to an inglorious end.

"All decent West Berliners should get together and cleanse their part of the city of the American spy organisations and send them to hell, together with Reuter. (West Berlin Mayor, ed.) After that they will be able to establish normal, peaceful relations with the surrounding countryside, and will cease to be an island of decay in the midst of the newly-blossoming part of Germany."

* * *

The names of West Berliners who buy goods in East will in future be published, the West Berlin city administration decided on July 3rd.

This measure is reminiscent of the early days of the nazi regime when citizens were driven through the streets by Storm Troopers with placards round their necks stating "I shopped in a Jewish shop," or "I have a Jewish boy friend."

The West Berlin city administration also decided to deprive all "supporters of the eastern ideology" of unemployment pay. In addition they will be deprived of their allotments or any plots of land which they may own. The vague formulation "supporters of eastern ideology" would allow the city administration to take action against almost anyone of whom they disapprove.

Social Democratic Councillor Lipschitz, supporting the measures, stated:

"There is no point maintaining the formal-legal democratic point of view. We must act, and act now."

"East German Armed Forces will be Internationally Minded": — Wilhelm Pieck

The armed forces which will be raised in East Germany will be trained in a spirit of internationalism, in a spirit of respect for other nations and of love for the workers of all lands, stated President Wilhelm Pieck in a speech to the Party Conference of the Socialist Unity Party.

In West Germany a new militarism, just as dangerous as the militarism of the Kaiser's time or of Hitler's era, was being raised, and was threatening the world, Wilhelm Pieck stated.

"In the German Democratic Republic the picture is quite different," he said. "There can be no better cause than that our workers should defend with their own hands the nationally-owned factories against attacks by the monopolists, thirsting for war.

"There can be no better cause than that our peasants should defend their fields against the greed of the Junker militarists.

"There can be no better cause than that our young people should defend their schools and universities against those who would like to rob them again of their right to education.

"The creation of national armed forces in the German Democratic Republic does not of course mean that we intend to go to war with anyone. Our flag remains, as before, the flag of peace. But if the imperialists should unleash a new world war, then this war must bury not only some western European capitalist states, but world imperialism as a whole.

"We want no war, and we shall do everything to prevent war. But in order to dissuade the imperialists from starting a war in the heart of Europe we must create our own strong national armed forces, equipped with all weapons of modern warfare on land, on the sea and in the air.

"Our armed forces must be filled with the great ideal of the defence of the freedom and independence of our Republic. They must be trained in a spirit of internationalism, in a spirit of respect for other nations and of love for the workers of all lands, in a spirit of peace among the peoples.

"Together with all the other peace-loving peoples we wish to do all we can to spare humanity the horrors of a new war. We are confident that the new social order of democracy and Socialism, following the pattern set by the construction of Communism in the Soviet Union, will win in the peaceful contest and will mold the future."

...but in West Germany

"Your face looks familiar Corporal."
"Yes sir. You were the U. S. Military judge who sentenced me to life imprisonment in 1946 for war crimes."

BUILDING SOCIALISM IN EAST GERMANY

Main points from Walter Ulbricht's Speech to the Socialist Unity Party Congress in Berlin

Industrial Tasks Ahead

"What tasks now face us in providing the basis for Socialism in our industry? The main tasks are: the speeded-up reconstruction of our large factories on the basis of progressive technical knowledge; the overcoming of the disproportions which exist as a result of the partitioning of Germany; learning the lessons of progressive technical science; increasing the productivity of labour; and in the application of the principles of economic accounting in all nationally-owned factories.

"The measures which we have been forced to take for the defence of the German Democratic Republic demand certain material and financial expenditures. Despite these additional expenditures we shall be able to fulfil the Five Year Plan in all particulars, including raising the standard of living of the population, if the working enthusiasm of the working class takes a new upward trend and if new technical methods and the principles of economic accounting are properly applied.

"The new city which is being built together with the new 'Ost' Iron Combine on the Oder river is the first fully Socialist city. In this industrial area and in this city no capitalist exploitation remains. All supplies for the population will be provided by the State Trading Organisation and the Cooperatives. Services like tailoring and shoemaking will be provided by production cooperatives formed by the craftsmen.

"In the German Democratic Republic consumption rose in 1951 by the following percentages:

meat	28 percent
fish	49 percent
eggs	71 percent
shoes	32 percent.

"At the same time price reductions in 1951 and 1952 meant that the population saved the sum of approximately 2300 million marks."

The Revolutionary Change in East Germany

"It is obvious to everyone that the progress made in East Germany in the fields of democracy, economics and culture since its liberation by the Soviet Army bear the character of a revolutionary change. In fact power has passed from the hands of the capitalist class into the hands of the labouring people in town and country, led by the working class.

"I have been told that some writers have excused themselves for not writing about the new problems by saying that they could not, because there had been no revolution in Germany.

"It is true that there was no actual fighting with weapons. That is mainly due to the fact that the democratic revolution took place in the presence of the Soviet Army, our liberators. The foreign and the West German reactionaries were not in a position to intervene, and the reactionary capitalist forces in East Germany were pinned down and could not make up their minds to oppose the people openly.

"Owing to the help of the Socialist Soviet Union, in the form of the Soviet Army, conditions were created which made it possible for the revolutionary change to take place without an explosion."

The Struggle in West Germany

"Those in power in the United States judge West Germany to be the most aggressively-minded of all the capitalist states in Europe, and are therefore ready to give her a position of advantage in order to carry out American policy.

"The Bonn Treaty and the aggressiveness of West German militarism will undoubtedly lead to a sharpening of the contradictions which exist between the capitalist countries. The peoples of France, Belgium, Holland, Italy and Great Britain are not willing to allow themselves to be dragged into a conflict either for the aggressive aims of the USA or the revenge-plans of the West German militarists.

"The national liberation movement in West Germany against the Bonn Treaty and for a Peace Treaty has had considerable successes. Despite the terrorist policy of Adenauer's government nine million people were able to express their wish for peace and liberty in the plebiscite which was carried out.

"The ratification of the Bonn Treaty has been delayed because

many of the members of the We German parliament feared the da of decision and managed to pos pone it to October.

"The new factor in the nation movement in West Germany is th initiative shown by the workers i the fight against the Bonn Treat and in favour of a peace treat The basic foundation for the nation

Socialism ar

"The construction of Socialism the German Democratic Republic ar Berlin can have only a favourab effect on the fight for a unite democratic, peace-loving and i dependent Germany. We stand by ou proposals for achieving a peac treaty and German unity. Th question as to which form of soci order shall rule in Germany afte

Peasant Produ

"For some time now land-worker new settlers and other workin peasants have been establishing agr cultural production cooperatives one form and another.

"The working peasants favour planned economy, because th know that the planned economy the new Germany gives them stable livelihood. The peasants wh have formed production cooperative state that they have found that the thus produce better harvests, a that their work, and in particul the work for the peasant wome

Forei Policy

"The basis of our foreign poli is the fight for the maintenance peace, for a peace treaty with Ge many and the re-establishment the unity of Germany on a dem cratic basis.

"We are in favour of trade a good neighbourly relations with countries, including the capitali countries of the west, on the ba

The Fut of Berlin

"The National Construction Pr gramme in the Democratic Sector Berlin is symbolic of the rebuildi of our German homeland. In W Berlin, which the authorities th regard as a 'front-line town,' we on the other hand a picture of e nomic crisis, unemployment a reaction. The politicians over the for whom the city is nothing mo than a base for American, Fren and British espionage and sabot directed against the German Dem cratic Republic, express surpri

liberation movement must be formed y the unity of action of the Communist, Social Democratic and Christian workers, and the unmasking of the treacherous Social Democratic leaders who talk loudly against the Bonn Treaty but who by their deeds merely help the American imperialists and the Bonn government."

erman Unity

he unification of the country will be ecided by the German people themelves, without the intervention of ny foreign influences.

"Socialist construction will give all vorking people a chance to judge for hemselves which path serves the vorking people and which path is in he interests of the arms kings, big usiness, and the landlords."

n Cooperatives

ecomes easier when the tractor tations take over all mechanical ork.

"We believe that the creation of uch cooperatives on a completely oluntary basis represents a great tep forward.

"Since it is the working peasants hemselves who have raised the uestion there can be no question ut that we shall give the greatest ossible measure of support in all ases where the peasants themselves oluntarily decide to form a production cooperative."

Policy

f mutual agreement and equal ights for the two partners.

"That is why we have turned down he proposals made by the governnent of the Swiss Republic, which vanted to make the establishment f normal relations dependent upon ur recognition of pre-war debts inurred by Hitler, and the revision f our laws on land reform and on he confiscation of factories belongng to nazis and war criminals."

of Berlin

hen the German Democratic epublic takes measures to protect self against this banditry.

"But the economic crisis in West erlin could be solved without the ightest difficulty if West Berlin stablished normal relations with he government of the German emocratic Republic. All West Berin factories would be busy, and here would be no more unemployment.

"I believe that the workers of West Berlin know very well how much reason they have to be thankful to the government of the German Democratic Republic; they know how much worse their situation would be if they did not have the chance to buy goods at very favourable prices in the Democratic Sector.

"The only condition for the solution of the Berlin problem is that the people should throw off the lordship of the American, British and French agents in the West Berlin administration, and that the patriotic forces, the peace-loving citizens, should take the solution of the problem into their own hands."

Help from the Soviet Union

"In order to raise the level of our work to a higher technical basis the Politburo of our Party requested the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to put at our disposal modern building machinery, modern mining machinery for the equipment of several coal mines, and a whole series of modern instruments for geological research. Our request was acceded to, and the necessary agreements have already been concluded.

"Our great success has only been possible because immediately after the liberation the Soviet Army, Soviet engineers and Soviet scientists helped us to restore a peace-time economy. We received great economic help in the form of foodstuffs, raw materials and machinery from the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies."

The Church and "Neutrality"

"Under the present conditions, when the partitioning of Germany is being deepened by the Bonn Treaty, the church cannot continue to cloak itself in neutrality as an excuse for its failure to define its position.

"The church in the German Democratic Republic must renounce decisively all connections with American and British agencies, whether their liaison officer is Herr Adenauer or Herr Kaiser (West German Minister for All-German Affairs, ed.)

"The Christian morality of humanity cannot be reconciled with Adenauer's policy of enslavement, and the rule of the American, British and French occupation powers in West Germany and West Berlin.

"This means that the representatives of the church in the German Democratic Republic and the Democratic Sector of Berlin can accept no instructions from those who do the bidding of the American occupiers."

Administrative Reform

"Those working in the state machinery are learning ever better how to run the government, economy and cultural life. However the taking over of old forms and methods of government has proved a hindrance in solving new problems.

"In order to bring a decisive improvement in the work of the state machinery we have proposed to the bloc of antifascist-democratic parties a complete administrative reform. Since the administrative borders no longer coincide with the development in political and economic life we propose that the existing five provincial governments shall be replaced by 15 district councils.

"This will be a further step towards the democratisation of the state machinery, and will enable it to become a mighty instrument in developing the basis for Socialism."

Defence of East Germany

"The American, British and French imperialists are openly creating a mercenary army for aggressive purposes in West Germany. They do not conceal their aggressive intentions with regard to the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and the Soviet Union.

"In this situation it is the first duty of every patriot in the German Democratic Republic to organise the defence of the homeland. The creation of a people's army is necessary to defend the great work of national construction against the enemy who threatens it, both with gangs of saboteurs and with military forces.

"Some people raise the objection that soldiers are soldiers whatever you call them. This is not true. A weapon in the hand of Ridgway, the plague general, is very different from a weapon in the hand of an antifascist worker or peasant.

"In accordance with the wishes of the working people, and as our national duty to the patriotic forces in West Germany, we shall reply with strong counter-measures to all the steps taken by the western militarists."

American Mother in Berlin (I)

By Ruth Post

It is almost four years now since I left America, with my two small children, to follow my husband back to his native Germany.

That was in 1948, scarcely three years after the end of the war. My youngest child was not yet two, and I had heard enough about the miseries of post-war Germany to be afraid. Would there be enough to eat for the children? Where would we live, since Berlin was said to be a mass of ruins? What about coal in winter?

Worries and Fears

There were many other worries and fears. Leaving the U. S. at all, for Germany, and for East Germany at that, was for me a tremendous move. I was uninterested in politics, and as a more or less average American I had the usual distrust of Europeans, together with a rather strong dislike of the German nation as a whole. I thought of them as a nation of nazis, the only exceptions being people like my husband who had proved themselves otherwise. And to top it all, I spoke no German.

Does it seem strange, under these circumstances, that I came to Germany at all? I don't know. I loved my husband, and respected his urge to return and help re-build his country after fifteen difficult years in exile. Just as natural and important as it was for my husband to return to his homeland to live and work, was it for me to keep the family together and go along with him.

I hoped desperately that all would go well. But my fears were also mixed with a considerable amount of curiosity about Germany and the new sort of life we should be leading.

Lost Lipstick

With whatever money we had or could scrape together we bought supplies, and just before the boat left, and with the last of our money, we bought a large basket of oranges, little ones so that they would last longer. We knew they might be the last which our children would see perhaps for years.

Two days before we were due to reach Germany I ran out of lipstick, and discovered, after a quick desperate search of our luggage, that I had left my supply of make-up behind. This seemed like a major calamity to me, because however black living conditions might turn out to be in Germany, the prospect of facing them without face-powder and lipstick seemed unnecessarily drab. (Of course the make-up came to light eventually in another trunk.)

It was just dawn as our boat slowly drew into the little German port of Wismar on the Baltic Sea, and I remember my happy shock to see a real little town, practically intact. I don't know quite what I had expected, but it was certainly nothing as normal, pretty and completely German as Wismar seemed in the hazy light of that morning.

I say "completely German" because the red-brick facades of the buildings, with their square gabling and red-shingled pointed roofs facing each other across narrow streets was like a stage setting for a fairy-tale. But in actual fact there was very little that was normal about Wismar, or any other part of Germany, in 1948.

First German Word

Ahrenshoop is a seaside resort not far from Wismar. It was a convenient place for me and the children to stay during the first two weeks in Germany while my husband was settling such immediate questions as to where we could live and what work he could do. The food situation was still difficult in 1948, and the first German word which I learned to read, spell, write and pronounce was "Kartoffel", — potato. We also learned to eat them, at almost every meal, and with very little to help them go down. There wasn't much else.

From Ahrenshoop we moved to Berlin, where we have lived since. In those days some parts of Berlin were like a ghost city, so shocking in its complete ruination that I remember wondering at the number of people still alive and walking around.

I was surprised to discover stores at all, and to learn that there were actually things to buy. The "things" which you could buy over the counter, and without ration tickets, consisted of probably the largest assortment of utterly useless and ugly objects that have ever been gotten together in any city at any time.

And the people! Actually they looked often even worse than other peoples living in poverty and hardship. For apart from the condition of their clothing and their shoes you could often see a special tight bitter expression on their faces which said plainly: "This I did not expect, and this I certainly do not deserve."

But all that was four years ago. My position during these four years has been mainly that of housewife concerned mostly with my family. I have learned to get along in German, and I have learned to know and like a lot of Germans, particularly the young people.

During the four years things have changed out of all recognition, and it is only now that I sit down to write about them that I realise how much they have changed.

All Change

I saw the opening of the very first H. O. shop (state run store) some months after our arrival. For the first time in more than ten years unrationed food and clothing was on open legal sale. Crowds flocked round the counters, gaping at the displays of new products. Actually there was more gaping than buying, for the prices were still very high. But at least one saw the merchandise, and the possibility of possessing things once more existed.

More and more H. O. stores and restaurants appeared. By now there is one on almost every corner. I see these H. O. stores even with my lack of talent for economics as a kind of barometer of economic and social progress. Price cuts come automatically and regularly — there have been over a dozen big price reductions since the first H. O. was opened — and the quality of the merchandise keeps improving. Price reductions have come to be so much a part of the picture of shopping that when a few months pass without a new reduction you hear people in the shops saying "There must be another cut coming soon."

(In the second part of her article, which will appear in an early number of GERMAN REPORT the American housewife will report on queues, grumbles, and the schools which her children attend.)

Democratic
GERMAN REPORT

Subscription rates: 4 German marks. 8/—sterling, $ 1.25 per annum or pro rata, post free.

In Democratic Germany subs. taken at all post offices. Single copies may be purchased at the international newsstands.

British subs. to:
Collet's Subscription Dept.,
40 Great Russell St.,
London W. C. 1

U. S. subs. to:
National Guardian,
17 Murray St.,
New York 7.

All other communications to:
Democratic German Report,
Friedrichstrasse 167/III,
Berlin W 8,
Germany.

All material in this paper may be freely reprinted. Voucher copies of reprints appreciated.

TWO POUNDS OF STEAK PER HOUR

What Wage Raises Mean to East German Miners

High-skilled miners working underground in East Germany are now earning the highest wages ever paid in the German mining industry. Since prices in the German Democratic Republic are steadily sinking they are able to buy more than ever before.

New wage rates which came into effect on July 1st give the top wage group a basic wage of 3.85 marks per hour for underground work. Since most miners are on piece work and regularly overfulfilling their quota the actual pay will be often considerably higher. For this hourly wage the miner can buy, for instance, 2 lbs of the best steak, or 25 eggs.

The highest wage paid in West German mines is 2.50 marks, for which the miner can buy less than 1 lb of steak, since prices for basic foodstuffs are considerably higher there.

Full details of the wage and salary increases, which have become available since GERMAN REPORT No. 13 went to press, show that all professors at universities in East Germany are now getting double the salaries which they received before July 1st.

Other categories getting the pay raises include all skilled workers in heavy industry, chemists and technicians in most branches of industry, and foremen in all factories.

Explaining the reasons for the increases, which will be followed in May 1953 by wage raises in other branches of industry, Roman Chwalek, Minister for Labour, stated:

"It was necessary to develop a wage system which would give every worker the impetus to improve his qualifications and thus move up to a higher-paid wage group. The same considerations ruled for the development of skilled workers to foremen and technicians, and for encouraging the young generation to take technical training.

"Examples from coal mining will show how necessary it was to create new wage scales. Formerly promotion from wage group VI to wage group VII only meant a wage increase of 3.8 but to-day it means an increase of nearly 27 percent. Previously there was only an increase of 3.2 percent on further promotion to wage group VIII, but this has been changed to 25.4 percent.

"It is clear that the old wage scales did not tend to make miners very interested in qualifying themselves sufficiently to enter a higher wage group.

"Similar factors ruled in the difference between the wages of the best workers and the foremen. Very many of our Activists and even Heroes of Labour have declined in the past to be promoted to foreman, since they were earning so well on piece work that the promotion would have meant a drop in earnings.

"Here is an example from the Riesa Steel Rolling Mills. A skilled worker was earning an average of 572 marks monthly, while a foreman was getting only 472 marks and a technical engineer only 517 marks.

"The new wage and salary raises mean that foremen will earn an average of 20 percent more than the most qualified workers under them."

* * *

An official spokesman of the West German government, commenting on the East German wage raises, stated: "The results can only be a further impoverishment of the masses, an expropriation of those who still possess something, and finally complete economic disaster."

The spokesman failed to explain how wage raises, coupled with sinking prices, could lead to impoverishment.

Thirty Miners Decorated —

Thirty of the best miners in East Germany were decorated on July 5th with the title "Honoured Miner." All of those who received this distinction are, or have been, underground workers, although some of them have advanced to posts such as pit manager since the mines passed into national ownership in 1946.

Awarding the medals, Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl was able to announce that coal production for the first half of 1952 in the German Democratic Republic had reached the record figure of 54,575,000 tons, over half a million tons more than had been planned.

Phosphates, salt, pyrites, lead and tin had all been mined in larger quantities than had been expected, but iron ore production was lagging, production for the first six months of this year being only 96.2 percent of the planned figure, Prime Minister Grotewohl stated.

In honour of "Miners' Day" a total of over 14,000 individual miners and over 5000 brigades had taken voluntary pledges to increase production still further.

Coal Production Above Plan

"They have done this because they know that they are working in a nationally owned industry, and that they bear a great responsibility towards their people. They have done this because they know that every ton of coal and ore which they mine is a blow for peace,", the Prime Minister stated.

NEGLIGENT PIT MANAGER SENTENCED

Sentences ranging up to twelve years imprisonment were passed by the East German Supreme Court on July 5th against seven employees of "Martin Hoop" mine in Zwickau, found guilty of criminal negligence in connection with a mine disaster which killed 48 miners.

The guilty men included the technical director of the mine and the safety inspector. Evidence was given that they neglected to put into effect the safety measures laid down in government orders, and that they had not even used the funds made available for the purchase of fire-fighting and rescue apparatus.

Passing sentence Frau Hilde Benjamin, Vice-President of the Supreme Court, stated:

"An offence against the life and security of our workers is one of the most serious imaginable crimes, since human beings are our most valuable possessions."

Christian Realism

The Christian Democratic Union, one of the main political parties in East Germany, has published an eight-page leaflet in English on "Christian Realism," the principles which guide the policy of the party.

The Christian Democratic Union would be glad to send one or more copies of this pamphlet, free and post free, to any reader of GERMAN REPORT interested. Please write direct, stating the number of copies desired, to:

Auslandsabteilung
Christlich-Demokratische Union Deutschlands
Jaeger Strasse 59—60
Berlin W 8

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Berlin has been a good place for a journalist to be ever since the end of the war, because there is always something going on here. In the last week or two there have been so many goings-on, of a positive nature, that I and many of my colleagues have scarcely had time to see them all.

At the World Peace Council meeting we have had a chance to talk to leaders of the world peace movement; before the Peace Council session was ended groups of young dancers and singers, drama groups and amateur orchestras filled all the halls of East Berlin for the German Folk Art competition, and we raced from one to another, not wanting to miss a thing; and as the last weary folk-dancers were catching their trains back home 2000 delegates arrived in Berlin for the Party Conference of the Socialist Unity Party.

Farmer Delegate

Of all the people with whom I have spoken in these last few days, none has left a deeper impression than one of the delegates to the Socialist Unity Party Conference. He was a sun-bronzed elderly man, obviously from the country, slow-spoken and deliberate, not the sort of person that you would expect to meet as a delegate to a political conference in the Western world.

Rudolf Horn was his name, and he was a small farmer from Mecklenburg. For thirty years he had worked as an agricultural labourer on the estate of a rich Junker, he told me. "In 1945, after Hitlerite Germany had been smashed by the Soviet Army, and the land reform was carried out, I was allotted twenty acres of land — four acres of it meadow.

"One horse and one cow were all the livestock I had to start with. Today, after six years of work, I have ten cows, ten sheep and 75 pigs, including nine sows in farrow.

Villagers Cooperate

"In the harvesting, which is coming soon, I can rely on the local tractor station to do the main work with its tractors, and we have formed a threshing group in our village which has pledged itself to finish the work of threshing by September 15th. One of the farmers in our threshing group is sick in the hospital, but we shall look after his grain too."

Once he got going on his account of the new ways of life in the villages round him it was difficult to stop Herr Horn. Apart from the tractor station which helped mechanise the farm work there was an agricultural advice station, a club house was being built, health services had been extended, and so on. "Most of us in the village are former farm labourers who got their farms from the land reform, and who are today leading a decent life for the first time," he added.

Which Column Do You Read?

"Conscription for an East German Army is assured"

New York Herald Tribune (Paris Edition), July 7th 1952, page 4, column 1.

"The problem (of an East German Army) might be solved by decreeing conscription. Observers believe this is unlikely to happen for some time."

Same paper, same edition, same date, same page, column 4.

"If the old estate owner in West Germany thinks that we are just going to sit around and watch while he comes and chases us off our land, then he has got another think coming."

Can Caminada Count?

This notebook has mentioned before the activities of Mr. Caminada, West Berlin correspondent of the London "Times", present holder of the title "Most Unreliable Correspondent in Berlin", despite keen competition.

To reassure readers who might fear that other correspondents were edging Mr. Caminada out of this title I feel I must mention a dispatch of his published in the "Times" on July 7th. There were no particular lies in the story, but practically every ascertainable hard fact in the five paragraph story was wrong. Here are some samples:

"East Berliners had the task of forming another large demonstration in a public square to mark the last day of the meeting of the 'world peace council'", stated Mr. Caminada. The meeting actually took place in the German Sports Hall, which is not even near a public square, and every East Berlin newspaper had been announcing this in large letters for days in advance.

"Yesterday was set down in East Germany as 'miner's day' and Herr Grotewohl handed awards to 31 men credited with exemplary performances", the "Times" report continued. In actual fact Prime Minister Grotewohl handed awards to 30 miners. Even if reading the text was too much of an effort for him, Mr. Caminada could have reached the correct total by counting the pictures of the decorated men, published in the main East Berlin newspaper "Neues Deutschland" the day he was writing the dispatch.

"Sentences were pronounced on several men blamed for the disaster in the coal mines at Zwickau, where 47 miners lost their lives", continued Caminada. The number of lives lost was 48, as reference to the trial reports would have shown immediately.

I will gladly publish, uncut and uncensored, a short statement from Mr. Caminada explaining how he happened to make so many mistakes in so little room.

Lippmann on Lies

Western newspapers have been full again in the past few weeks of vivid stories of shooting and kidnapping in Berlin, always carried out of course by mysterious Russians and other "reds".

GERMAN REPORT has dealt with these stories in the past, but it is interesting to see what Walter Lippmann, writing in the New York Herald Tribune on June 27th has to say:

"Hardly a day passes without an incident in Berlin, or in the corridors to Berlin. They ... consist of incidents which are provoked, imagined, fabricated, or have just happened by accident, in a border region which is in a condition of high tension and extreme alert. Until recently the extraordinary thing about Berlin has not been how many, but how few have been the incidents, considering the crazy way in which the unfriendly forces are scrambled."

The next time that you read a highly-coloured story of a Berlin incident, just recall Lippmann's words ... "provoked, imagined, fabricated, or have just happened by accident."

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet, Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8, Telephone: 22 62 68. Printed in Germany by (36). Veröffentlicht unter der Lizenz-Nr. 752 des Amtes für Information der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik.